

THE SAMUEL HUNTINGTON PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

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Return on Investment (ROI)

Dear Friends of the Samuel Huntington Award,

Before I report on this important aspect of the Fund, I want to tell you about a very exciting and energizing zoom call the board recently held with a group of 25 former winners. Organized by three winners, they spent an hour sharing what each winner had done with the award, telling us what they are doing now, and getting their suggestions and ideas about the future of the Fund. One said: "This for me was more powerful than 100 mailings!" The energy in the 'room' was wonderful! In addition, it was great to hear how many of them are still engaged in public service work, AND how much they thanked the award for changing their lives!

Indeed, that call was a real reflection of the return on our investment in these amazing young people. Angela Duckworth, a winner of the Samuel Huntington Award in 1992, recently told me that she doesn't know of any organization with a bigger ROI than our Fund! Angela is a professor at the University of Pennsylvania, and author of the New York Times #2 best sell-

er, *Grit*. Thinking about what she said, and what ROI means, I thought more about how and why the winners of our award have given us such a good return on our investment. I believe it's because they all believe that to make a sustainable difference, you need to give a hand UP, not a hand OUT. Or to put it another way, if you give a man a fish, he can eat for a meal, but teach him how to fish, and he can eat for a lifetime. When we interview our finalists, we are looking for young people who both know the difference and have some solutions for education, medicine, law, the environment that truly give the recipients a hand up.

Here are some numbers to support her positive thinking, and praise for the Fund. If you think of your donation as an investment in the sustainable 'hand up' projects these young people work on, I think you will agree that your investment is a good one! We, the members of the board, the winners and the recipients, all thank you!

Let's Get Ready, started by Jeannie Lang Rosenthal (Harvard) in 2000, to help students, who need the support, prepare to take the SAT and go to college. The 'teachers' are all college students! The organ-



Jennifer Huntington
Chair

ization recently set itself a target to double the number of students the program serves by 2025. Three years ago, 12,500 students were being served across the country. Today the program has achieved its ambitious goal. LGR is now operating in 48 states, across 1,800 zip codes. Jeannie's project has been operating for over 25 years! Our initial investment of \$10,000 has had a wonderful ROI!

Post Landfill Network Action Plan (PLAN) started by Alex Freid (UNH) in 2013, with our \$20K, to help reduce waste going into landfills from college campuses. PLAN projects a reduction of 18.6 million pieces of plastic annually, and \$7.7 million in annual expenses. PLAN has been in operation for 12 years!

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Your
donations
make all
that we
do
Possible!



2025 Award Recipients

This year, we selected three outstanding seniors—Alyscia Batista, Diana Naiyano Kimojino, and Jack Rothacker—to implement outstanding public service projects in Peru, Kenya, and El Salvador.

Intergrating Modern and Traditional Medicine in Peru

Upon graduating from Brown and before attending medical school, Alyscia Batista will train local health workers, interview traditional medical providers, and develop a bilingual health manual for two remote regions of Peru. One region will be in the mountains of the Andes, and the second will be in the jungles of the Amazon. Specifically, Alycia will collaborate with local clinics and interview traditional healers to develop a curriculum that will use both modern medicine and traditional techniques to train 50 community members in first aid, hygiene, maternal health, and nutrition. The workshops and interviews will be synthesized in a bilingual guide and used for on-going training programs in remote communities across Peru.



Like many of our winners, Alyscia's project is a labor of love—it is an homage to her grandmother who grew up in the mountains of Peru. As she says, "The initiative is both a mission to improve healthcare access and a commitment to honor and preserve the cultural traditions that define these unique regions."

Community Health Program in Kenya

After her graduation from Wesleyan, Diana Naiyaboi Kimojino is returning home to her Maasai community in Narok County, Kenya. She is adding a woman's health care program to the Nailepu Foundation, which Diana founded in 2022. The Foundation provides education, mentorship, and safe spaces to the young women of the community. The Community Health Program adds an important new element to the Foundation. The Health Program will conduct ten

workshops for over 5,000 youth and parents to address the high rate of teenage pregnancy in the region; train 30 health advocates to support safe childbirth and maternal health care; and teach 50 women to make 10,000 sanitary towels for menstrual care that will be sold to support the women and the Program. The Foundation already has a strong base of community support and this project will extend and build upon that community cooperation.

These health services are essential for young Maasai women. The teenage pregnancy rate is 28 percent. Pregnancy and menstrual hygiene issues lead to lack of formal education for 15.5 percent of the women in the community. Diana is addressing these issues as part of a comprehensive empowerment program to provide safe spaces, economic opportunity, and now, better health for women.



School Construction in El Salvador



Jack Rothacker went on a mission trip to Liceo Juan Calvino School located in an impoverished region of El Salvador, and fell in love with the place. The school now covers grades one through six. He is building classrooms for grades seven, eight, and nine. He reports that El Salvador is in desperate need for more middle schools and technical training facilities. He has worked with leaders of the school and an architect to develop a five-year plan to design and build the classrooms to meet the needs at Juan Calvino School. When completed the project will serve 100 middle schoolers and 300 technical students.

The first phase of the project and our Award is focused on the three middle school classes. While still at North Carolina State, he started a non-profit and raised \$20,000. Our grant adds \$30,000, a significant step toward the fundraising required for the first phase. Jack has plans to carry the project forward to fully complete it by the end of the five-year plan. He has made a serious start.

Letter from the Chair, Continued from Page 1

Lonnie Hackett's **Healthy Learners** in Zambia, was started in 2014 when Lonnie graduated from Bowdoin. The program, in addition to providing education, focusses on keeping kids healthy so that they can learn. At a cost of \$1.50, each child has access to both education and health care through the work of School Health workers who can quickly administer remedies for diseases like malaria. Healthy Learners now reaches 830,000, or 25%, of primary school aged children in public schools in Zambia. Healthy Learners recently entered into a memo of understanding with the Zambian government to scale the program nationally over the next three years. Our investment of \$20,000 has truly paid dividends!

New Voters, Jahnavi Rao's project to register high school students to vote, has been wonderfully successful. Starting right after she graduated from Harvard in 2022, Jahnavi's New Voters youth-led 501(c) (3) has run 994 non-partisan registration drives in over 500 high schools in 39 states. All this in just two years. New Voters was featured in Teen Vogue, CNN, NBC News, Bloomberg, HBO Max, and Forbes. She says, "We are proud to have supported the growth of the organization with the Award, and enabled the founders to work full time after graduating." The return on investment for democracy is wonderful!

I want to end with a 'shout out' to National Grid (formerly NEES) for all their 'gratis' support in preparing our taxes; and most especially to Amy Stacy without whose wonderful support and endless organizing skills sorting through all the applications, and being the point person for all the myriad questions about the award that come from prospective applicants. The fact that the Fund gets this help for free means that almost 100% of your donation is used to invest in our winners!

So, when you make your donation to the Samuel Huntington Fund, I hope you will think of it as a good investment in the future of literally millions of people around the world who are being 'taught to fish' in different ways, and who, if they could, would all say a big thank you to you! Truly the continued energy and commitment of our winners in fulfilling and sustaining their projects is a reflection of the return on your investment – thank you!

Jennifer Huntington

Thank You to Our Supporters!

The Samuel Huntington Fund was established in 1989 and, thanks to you, has now granted 94 Public Service Awards to graduates of 45 colleges and universities. Please keep the Fund in mind as you consider your year-end charitable giving. You can make a tax deductible contribution at any time by visiting our website (www.samuelhuntingtonaward.org) or sending a check to:

The Samuel Huntington Fund
c/o Ms. Amy Stacy
National Grid
170 Data Drive
Waltham, MA 02451

For your convenience, a pre-addressed envelope is enclosed with this newsletter. Thank you for your consideration!

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